

**EXHIBIT A**  
**LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS AND AMENDMENTS**  
**(04-19-2006)**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**Claims 1-17 (canceled)**

**Claim 18 (new)**

18. A bracket system adapted to connect distal and proximal vertical support members and upper and lower horizontal support members to form a gate assembly that is adapted to be connected to a structural member, the bracket system comprising:

- an upper distal brace assembly comprising a first brace section and a first adjustable section, where the first brace assembly is adapted to be connected to the distal vertical support member and the upper horizontal support member, where a position of the first adjustable section relative to the first brace section is fixed based on a first dimension of the distal vertical support member;
- a lower distal brace assembly comprising a second brace section and a second adjustable section, where the second brace assembly is adapted to be connected to the distal vertical support member and lower horizontal support member, where a position of the second adjustable section relative to the second brace section is fixed based on the first dimension of the distal vertical support member;
- an upper proximal brace assembly comprising a third brace section, a third adjustable section, and an upper hinge assembly, where the first proximal brace assembly is adapted to be connected to the proximal vertical support member and upper horizontal support member, where a position of the third adjustable section relative to the third brace section is fixed based on a first dimension of the proximal vertical support member; and

a lower proximal brace assembly comprising a fourth brace section, a fourth adjustable section, and a lower hinge assembly, where the first proximal brace assembly is adapted to be connected to the proximal vertical support member and upper horizontal support member, where a position of the fourth adjustable section relative to the fourth brace section is fixed based on a first dimension of the proximal vertical support member.

**Claim 19 (new)**

19. A bracket system as recited in claim 18, in which:  
the first dimension of the distal vertical support member is in a horizontal direction; and  
the first dimension of the proximal vertical support member is in a horizontal direction.

**Claim 20 (new)**

20. A bracket system as recited in claim 18, in which:  
the first dimension of the distal vertical support member is a width dimension;  
and  
the first dimension of the proximal vertical support member is a width dimension.

**Claim 21 (new)**

21. A bracket system as recited in claim 18, in which:  
a position of the first adjustable section relative to the third adjustable section is fixed based on a first dimension of the upper horizontal support member;  
and  
a position of the second adjustable section relative to the fourth adjustable section is fixed based on a first dimension of the lower horizontal support

member.

**Claim 22 (new)**

22. A bracket system as recited in claim 18, in which:  
a position of the first adjustable section relative to the second adjustable section  
is fixed based on a second dimension of the distal vertical support  
member; and  
a position of the third adjustable section relative to the fourth adjustable section is  
fixed based on a second dimension of the proximal vertical support  
member.

**Claim 23 (new)**

23. A bracket system as recited in claim 21, in which:  
a position of the first adjustable section relative to the second adjustable section  
is fixed based on a second dimension of the distal vertical support  
member; and  
a position of the third adjustable section relative to the fourth adjustable section is  
fixed based on a second dimension of the proximal vertical support  
member.

**Claim 24 (new)**

24. A bracket system as recited in claim 21, in which:  
the first dimension of the upper horizontal support member is a length dimension;  
and  
the first dimension of the lower horizontal support member is a length dimension.

**Claim 25 (new)**

25. A bracket system as recited in claim 22, in which:  
the second dimension of the distal vertical support member is a length dimension; and  
the second dimension of the proximal vertical support member is a length dimension.

**Claim 26 (new)**

26. A bracket system as recited in claim 23, in which:  
the first dimension of the upper horizontal support member is a length dimension;  
the first dimension of the lower horizontal support member is a length dimension;  
the second dimension of the distal vertical support member is a length dimension; and  
the second dimension of the proximal vertical support member is a length dimension.

**Claim 27 (new)**

27. A bracket system as recited in claim 18, in which:  
the upper and lower hinge assemblies define first and second hinge axes; and  
the first and second hinge axes are substantially aligned when positions of the third adjustable section relative to the third brace section and the fourth adjustable section relative to the fourth brace section are fixed.

**Claim 28 (new)**

28. A bracket system as recited in claim 18, in which:  
a first projection is formed on at least one of the first brace section and first adjustable section and a first void is formed on the other of the first brace

section and the first adjustable section, where the first projection engages the first void to influence movement of the first brace section relative to the first adjustable section;

a second projection is formed on at least one of the second brace section and second adjustable section and a second void is formed on the other of the second brace section and the second adjustable section, where the second projection engages the second void to influence movement of the second brace section relative to the second adjustable section;

a third projection is formed on at least one of the third brace section and third adjustable section and a third void is formed on the other of the third brace section and the third adjustable section, where the third projection engages the third void to influence movement of the third brace section relative to the third adjustable section; and

a fourth projection is formed on at least one of the fourth brace section and fourth adjustable section and a fourth void is formed on the other of the fourth brace section and the fourth adjustable section, where the fourth projection engages the fourth void to influence movement of the fourth brace section relative to the fourth adjustable section.

**Claim 29 (new)**

29. A bracket system as recited in claim 18, in which:

a first pair of cooperating openings are formed in the first brace section and the first adjustable section, where the cooperating openings are adapted to allow fasteners to fix the position of the first adjustable section relative to the first brace section;

a second pair of cooperating openings are formed in the second brace section and the second adjustable section, where the cooperating openings are

- adapted to allow fasteners to fix the position of the second adjustable section relative to the second brace section;
- a third pair of cooperating openings are formed in the third brace section and the third adjustable section, where the cooperating openings are adapted to allow fasteners to fix the position of the third adjustable section relative to the third brace section; and
- a fourth pair of cooperating openings are formed in the fourth brace section and the fourth adjustable section, where the cooperating openings are adapted to allow fasteners to fix the position of the fourth adjustable section relative to the fourth brace section.

**Claim 30 (new)**

30. A method of connecting distal and proximal vertical support members and upper and lower horizontal support members to form a gate assembly that is adapted to be connected to a structural member, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing a first brace section;
- providing a first adjustable section;
- fixing a position of the first adjustable section relative to the first brace section based on a width dimension of the distal vertical support member to form an upper distal brace assembly, where the first brace assembly is adapted to be connected to the distal vertical support member and the upper horizontal support member;
- providing a second brace section;
- providing a second adjustable section;
- fixing a position of the second adjustable section relative to the second brace section based on a width dimension of the distal vertical support member to form an upper distal brace assembly, where the second brace assembly

is adapted to be connected to the distal vertical support member and the lower horizontal support member;  
providing a third brace section;  
providing a third adjustable section;  
fixing a position of the third adjustable section relative to the third brace section based on a width dimension of the distal vertical support member to form an upper distal brace assembly, where the third brace assembly is adapted to be connected to the proximal vertical support member and the upper horizontal support member;  
providing a fourth brace section;  
providing a fourth adjustable section; and  
fixing a position of the fourth adjustable section relative to the fourth brace section based on a width dimension of the distal vertical support member to form an upper distal brace assembly, where the fourth brace assembly is adapted to be connected to the proximal vertical support member and the lower horizontal support member.

**Claim 31 (new)**

31. A method as recited in claim 30, further comprising the steps of:  
fixing a position of the first adjustable section relative to the third adjustable section based on a length dimension of the upper horizontal support member; and  
fixing a position of the second adjustable section relative to the fourth adjustable section based on a length dimension of the lower horizontal support member.

**Claim 32 (new)**

32. A method as recited in claim 30, further comprising the steps of:  
fixing a position of the first adjustable section relative to the second adjustable section based on a length dimension of the distal vertical support member;  
and  
fixing a position of the third adjustable section relative to the fourth adjustable section based on a length dimension of the proximal vertical support member.

**Claim 33 (new)**

33. A method as recited in claim 31, further comprising the steps of:  
fixing a position of the first adjustable section relative to the second adjustable section based on a length dimension of the distal vertical support member;  
and  
fixing a position of the third adjustable section relative to the fourth adjustable section based on a length dimension of the proximal vertical support member.

**Claim 34 (new)**

34. A method as recited in claim 30, further comprising the steps of:  
providing upper and lower hinge assemblies; and  
rigidly connecting the upper and lower hinge assemblies to the upper and lower adjustable members.

**Claim 35 (new)**

35. A method as recited in claim 30, further comprising the steps of:  
forming a first projection on at least one of the first brace section and first



adjustable section;  
forming a first void on the other of the first brace section and the first adjustable section; and  
engaging the first projection with the first void to influence movement of the first brace section relative to the first adjustable section;  
forming a second projection on at least one of the second brace section and second adjustable section;  
forming a second void on the other of the second brace section and the second adjustable section; and  
engaging the second projection with the second void to influence movement of the second brace section relative to the second adjustable section;  
forming a third projection on at least one of the third brace section and third adjustable section;  
forming a third void on the other of the third brace section and the third adjustable section; and  
engaging the third projection with the third void to influence movement of the third brace section relative to the third adjustable section; and  
forming a fourth projection on at least one of the fourth brace section and fourth adjustable section;  
forming a fourth void on the other of the fourth brace section and the fourth adjustable section; and  
engaging the fourth projection with the fourth void to influence movement of the fourth brace section relative to the fourth adjustable section.

**Claim 36 (new)**

36. A method as recited in claim 30, further comprising the steps of:  
forming a first pair of cooperating openings in the first brace section and the first

adjustable section, where the cooperating openings are adapted to allow fasteners to fix the position of the first adjustable section relative to the first brace section;

forming a second pair of cooperating openings in the second brace section and the second adjustable section, where the cooperating openings are adapted to allow fasteners to fix the position of the second adjustable section relative to the second brace section;

forming a third pair of cooperating openings in the third brace section and the third adjustable section, where the cooperating openings are adapted to allow fasteners to fix the position of the third adjustable section relative to the third brace section; and

forming a fourth pair of cooperating openings in the fourth brace section and the fourth adjustable section, where the cooperating openings are adapted to allow fasteners to fix the position of the fourth adjustable section relative to the fourth brace section.

**Claim 37 (new)**

37. A brace assembly for forming a gate assembly comprising a vertical support member and a horizontal support member, the bracket system comprising:

a brace section; and

an adjustable section; whereby

the brace assembly is adapted to be connected to the vertical support member and the horizontal support member; and

a position of the adjustable section relative to the brace section is fixed based on a width dimension of one of the vertical support member and the horizontal support member.

**Claim 38 (new)**

38. A brace assembly as recited in claim 37, in which the position of the adjustable section relative to the brace section is fixed based on the width dimension of the vertical support member.

**Claim 39 (new)**

39. A brace assembly as recited in claim 37, a portion of the adjustable section extends beyond the brace section a distance approximately equal to the width dimension of one of the vertical support member and the horizontal support member.

**Claim 40 (new)**

40. A brace assembly as recited in claim 37, further comprising a hinge assembly rigidly connected to the adjustable section.

**Claim 41 (new)**

41. A brace assembly as recited in claim 37, in which:  
a projection is formed on at least one of the brace section and adjustable section;  
and  
a void is formed on the other of the brace section and the adjustable section;  
whereby  
the projection engages the void to influence movement of the brace section  
relative to the first adjustable section.

**Claim 42 (new)**

42. A brace assembly as recited in claim 37, in which a pair of cooperating openings are formed in the brace section and the first adjustable section, where the cooperating openings are adapted to allow fasteners to fix the position of the adjustable

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section relative to the brace section.